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Claims

- 1 A method of dry cleaning which includes a conditioning step in which textile material is contacted with a treatment medium based on liquid CO₂ and which includes from 0.001 to 2.5% by weight of the treatment medium of a conditioning agent which includes at least one fatty alcohol or fatty acid branched polyalkyloxylate.
- 2 A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the alcohol branched polyalkyloxylate is of the formula (I):
- $$R^1O(AO)_mR^2 \quad (I)$$
- where
- 10 R^1 is a C₈ to C₃₀ aliphatic hydrocarbyl or acyl group;
 AO is an alkyleneoxy group and is at least predominantly branched alkyleneoxy;
 m is from 2 to 30; and
 R^2 is H or a is a C₁ to C₄ aliphatic hydrocarbyl or acyl group.
- 3 A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the group R^1 is a C₈ to C₂₂ alkyl or alkenyl group.
- 15 4 A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the groups AO are propyleneoxy and/or butyleneoxy groups.
- 5 A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the group R^2 is H, a methyl or ethyl group, or an acetyl group.
- 6 A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein m is from 2 to 30.
- 20 7 A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the concentration of the conditioning agent alcohol branched polyalkyloxylate in the cleaning medium is 0.01 to 1% by weight of the cleaning medium.
- 8 A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein the textile material is contacted with a dry cleaning treatment medium further including at least one detergent surfactant and/or non-surfactant cleaning additive.
- 25 9 A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the non-surfactant cleaning additive is a multi-esters of the formula (II):
- $$R^{11}(XR^{12})_n \quad (II)$$
- where
- 30 X is -C(O)O- or -OC(O)- ; such that
 where X is -C(O)O-,
 R^{11} is a direct bond or the residue of a C₁ to C₁₀ hydrocarbyl group from which n hydrogen atoms have been removed; and
 R^{12} is a C₁ to C₁₀ hydrocarbyl group; and
- 35 where X is -OC(O)-,

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R¹¹ is or the residue of a C₂ to C₁₀ hydrocarbyl group from which n hydrogen atoms have been removed; and

R¹² is H or a C₁ to C₁₀ hydrocarbyl group; and

n is from 2 to 5;

5 the compound having a molecular weight of not more than 750.

10 A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein the textiles are contacted with the conditioning treatment medium, which does not include any cleaning additives, in a rinse cycle.

11 A dry cleaning medium based on liquid CO₂ and including:

10 a from 0.01 to 5% by weight of the cleaning medium of a cleaning additive which is at least one multi-ester having a molecular weight of not more than 750; and

b from 0.01 to 5% by weight of the treatment medium of a conditioning agent which includes at least one fatty branched polyalkyloxylate,

12 A dry cleaning medium as claimed in claim 11 which is free of detergent surfactant.

15 13 A dry cleaning medium as claimed in either claim 11 or claim 12 wherein the fatty branched polyalkyloxylate is of the formula (I) as defined in any one of claims 2 to 6.

14 A dry cleaning medium as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 13 wherein the multi-ester is of the formula (II) as defined in claim 9.

15 A dry cleaning medium as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 14 which additionally includes
20 at least one of fragrances, optical brighteners, sizes, enzymes and/or bleaches.